TRENDS

A3275-2

ASSOCIATION
OF AMERICAN
RAILROADS

Office of Information
and Public Affairs
50 F Street, N.W., Washington, DC 20001
(202) 639-2555

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WASHINGTON, August 21, 1986 -- Freight traffic on major U.S. railroads during the week ended August 16 totaled an estimated 17.4 billion ton-miles, 0.2 percent above the corresponding week of 1985, the Association of American Railroads reported today.

Cumulative volume for the first 33 weeks of 1986 was an estimated 555.0 billion ton-miles, 0.8 percent lower than the comparable period of last year.

Carloadings in the week ended August 16 totaled 380,675, down 0.3 percent from last year, but 2.2 percent higher the preceding week. Compared with last year, loadings were up 3.5 percent in the West, but down 6.3 percent in the East and 0.2 in the South.

Compared with the corresponding week last year, 14 of the 21 major commodity groups decreased. However, grain showed a gain of 4,490 cars (23.5 percent) and chemicals and allied products increased by 1,103 cars (4.7 percent). Thirteen of the 21 commodity groups increased from the preceding week.

Piggyback

The AAR also reported that piggyback freight traffic on major railroads for the week ended August 9 totaled 97,750 trailers and/or containers, 9.3 percent above last year.

The cumulative volume of TOFC/COFC traffic for the first 32 weeks of the year was 2,992,775 trailers and/or containers, up 9.7 percent from 1984.

(more)

Following are carloadings of major railroads, by commodity groups, for the week ended 08/16/86:

	Loadings in Week ended August 16, 1986		Change from Corresponding Week 1985			Change from Preceding Week	
	Cars		Cars	Percent		Cars	Percent
Grain	23,595	I	4,490	23.5	D	1,591	6.3
Other farm products	3,044	I	637	26.5	D	77	2.5
Metallic ores	13,889	D	478	3.3	D	921	6.2
Coal	117,942	D	6,095	4.9	I	5,072	4.5
Crushed stone, gravel and sand	14,567	I	231	1.6	I	138	1.0
Nonmetallic minerals	8,875	D	1,224	12.1	I	65	0.7
Grain mill products	10,322	D	187	1.8	D	156	1.5
Food and kindred products	11,068	D	149	1.3	I	244	2.3
Primary forest products	9,883	D	770	7.2	I	44	0.4
Lumber and wood products except furniture	7,802	I	784	11.2	I	632	8.8
Pulp, paper and allied products	12,452	D	1,129	8.3	D	211	1.7
Chemicals and allied products	24,407	I	1,103	4.7	I	2,432	11.1
Petroleum products	4,928	I	322	7.0	D	280	5.4
Stone, clay and glass products	10,387	D	515	4.7	I	5	0.0
Coke	3,671	D	961	20.7	I	304	9.0
Metals and products	7,388	D	612	7.7	I	282	4.0
Motor vehicles and equipment	16,901	D	1,189	6.6	I	2,027	13.6
Waste and scrap materials	7,756	D	794	9.3	I	307	4.1
Forwarder and shipper association traffic	3,188	D	3,704	53.7	D	50	1.5
All other carloads	68,539	I	9,170	15.4	I	102	0.1
LCL traffic	71	D	81	53.3	D	16	18.4
Total Cars Loaded	380,675	D	1,151	0.3	I	8,352	2.2
Corresponding week of 1985	381,826						

	1986	1985	% Change
Total Cars Loaded (33 weeks)	12,263,954	12,355,411	D 0.7
Estimated revenue ton-miles (in billions):			
32 Weeks ended August 9	537.6	542.3	D 0.9
Week ended August 16	17.4	17.3	I 0.2
33 Weeks cumulative	555.0	559.6	D 0.8

AARt - 082186